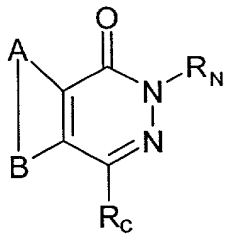
WE CLAIM:

1. A method of treatment of a disease of the human or animal body mediated by PARP comprising administering to such a subject a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula:



or an isomer, salt, solvate, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof, wherein:

A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;

R_C is represented by $-L-R_L$, where L is of formula:

$-(CH_2)_{n1}-Q_{n2}-(CH_2)_{n3}-$

wherein n_1, n_2 and n_3 are each selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3, the sum of n_1, n_2 and n_3 is 1, 2 or 3 and Q is selected from O, S, NH, C(=O) or $-CR_1R_2-$, where R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen or optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, or may together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C_{3-7} cyclic alkyl group, which may be saturated (a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl group) or unsaturated (a C_{3-7} cycloalkenyl group), or one of R_1 and R_2 may be attached to an atom in R_L to form an unsaturated C_{3-7} cycloalkenyl group which comprises the carbon atoms to which R_1 and R_2 are attached in Q, $-(CH_2)_{n3}-$ (if present) and part of R_L;

and R_L is optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl; and

R_N is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, and C_{5-20} aryl, hydroxy, ether,

nitro, amino, amido, thiol, thioether, sulfoxide and sulfone.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the fused aromatic ring(s) represented by -A-B- consists of solely carbon ring atoms.

3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the fused aromatic ring represented by -A-B- is benzene.

4. A method according to claim 3, wherein the fused aromatic ring is unsubstituted.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein R_N is hydrogen.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein L is of formula: $-(CH_2)_{n1}-Q_{n2}-$,
where n1 is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3 and n2 is selected from 0 and 1, where the sum of n1 and n2 is 1, 2 or 3.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein n1 is 1.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein L is $-CH_2-$.

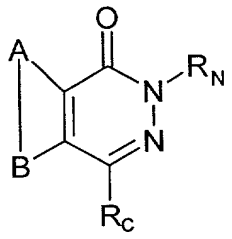
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein R_L is a benzene ring.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein R_L is substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: C_{1-7} alkyl; C_{5-20} aryl; C_{3-20} heterocyclyl; halo; hydroxy; ether; nitro; cyano; carbonyl groups; amino; acylamido; acyloxy; thiol; thioether; sulfoxide; and sulfone.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein R_L is substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of: acylamido, ureido, sulfonamino, and acyloxy.

12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the disease mediated by PARP is cancer, and there is additionally administered to the subject chemotherapy or radiation therapy.

13. A method of potentiating tumour cells for treatment with ionising radiation or chemotherapeutic agents comprising administering to said cells a compound of formula:



or an isomer, salt, solvate, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof, wherein:

A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;

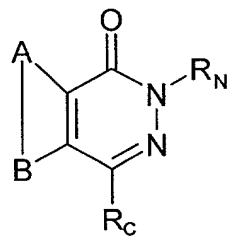
R_C is represented by $-L-R_L$, where L is of formula:

$-(CH_2)_{n1}-Q_{n2}-(CH_2)_{n3}-$

wherein n_1, n_2 and n_3 are each selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3, the sum of n_1, n_2 and n_3 is 1, 2 or 3 and Q is selected from O, S, NH, C(=O) or $-CR_1R_2-$, where R_1 and R_2 are independently selected from hydrogen, halogen or optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, or may together with the carbon atom to which they are attached form a C_{3-7} cyclic alkyl group, which may be saturated (a C_{3-7} cycloalkyl group) or unsaturated (a C_{3-7} cycloalkenyl group), or one of R_1 and R_2 may be attached to an atom in R_L to form an unsaturated C_{3-7} cycloalkenyl group

which comprises the carbon atoms to which R_1 and R_2 are attached in Q, $-(CH_2)_{n3}-$ (if present) and part of R_L; and R_L is optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl; and R_N is selected from hydrogen, optionally substituted C_{1-7} alkyl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, and C_{5-20} aryl, hydroxy, ether, nitro, amino, amido, thiol, thioether, sulfoxide and sulfone.

14. A compound of formula:



or an isomer, salt, solvate, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof, wherein:
A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;
R_C is $-CH_2-R_L$;
R_L is optionally substituted phenyl; and
R_N is hydrogen.

15. A compound according to claim 14, wherein the fused aromatic ring(s) represented by -A-B- consists of solely carbon ring atoms.

16. A compound according to claim 15, wherein the fused aromatic ring represented by -A-B- is benzene.

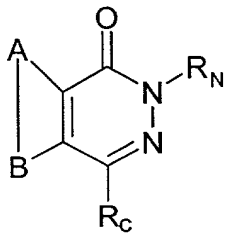
17. A compound according to claim 16, wherein the fused aromatic ring is unsubstituted.

18. A compound according to claim 14, wherein R_L is

substituted by one or more substituents selected from the group consisting of: C_{1-7} alkyl; C_{5-20} aryl; C_{3-20} heterocyclyl; halo; hydroxy; ether; nitro; cyano; carbonyl groups; amino; acylamido; acyloxy; thiol; thioether; sulfoxide; and sulfone.

19. A compound according to claim 18, wherein R_L is substituted by a substituent selected from the group consisting of: acylamido, ureido, sulfonamino, and acyloxy.

20. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula:



or an isomer, salt, solvate, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof, wherein:

A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;

R_C is $-CH_2-R_L$;

R_L is optionally substituted phenyl; and

R_N is hydrogen;

and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.